



The Independent Voice of Ellis County

August 2, 2007; Volume 3, Issue 3;
www.TheOnlineEdge.net; Hays, Kansas 67601

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....and much more

FREE
Take One

For musician Charlie Ihloff Life is good in the...



Heartland Band member and local businessman shows many talents

Mike Courson
Features Editor

Charley Ihloff is a man of many talents. Since moving to Hays in 1994, Ihloff has successfully ran Northwest Xerographics, a color printing company, as well as CW Productions, which offers a fully digital recording studio and sound system rentals and installs.

Ihloff also plays various instruments as a member of the Heartland Band, as well in the Hays City Trio, a country-gospel group.

Ihloff began his musical career in Dodge City, already playing professionally in and around Dodge City as a senior in high school.

Since then, his bands have opened for some of the biggest names in music. In the 70s, he opened for rock bands like Black Oak Arkansas, Commander Cody and Dr. Hook. Since turning country, his band has opened for acts as big as George Strait and Alan Jackson. The list of major acts, Ihloff

says, is too big to name.

The Heartland Band recently played at the Trego County fair and is scheduled to play for the Dodge City Days celebration, August 1-4.

Aside from playing, Ihloff is in the business of recording music and providing sound systems. Bands can use Ihloff's 30-plus years of experience in the recording business to create their own CDs at an affordable price at CW Productions.

Mostly, bands record a master copy in the studio and make copies elsewhere, but Ihloff's company can handle small dubbing jobs, incorporating his color printing business to provide a full array of color labels, inserts and posters.

The company also offers sound system rentals for all types of musical acts, and installs sound systems of all sizes.

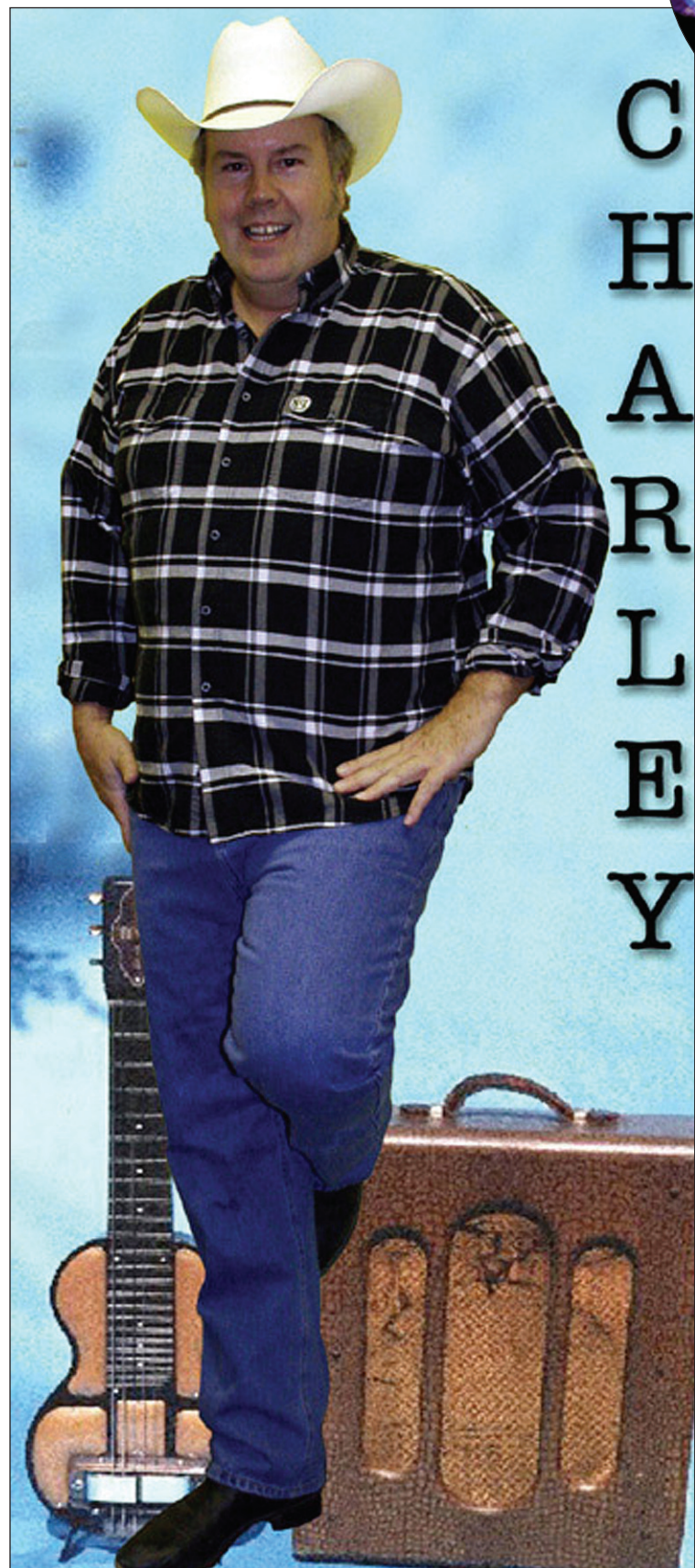
Beyond music, Ihloff is the owner of Northwest Xerographics, a print company specializing in color graphics. "We do photo retouching, photo editing, all types of scanning, photo t-shirts, reunion t-shirts and probably some of the best wide-format posters, which is blowing up a picture into a poster," Ihloff said.

He can also print vinyl banners, great for promotions or trade shows, design logos, and print color brochures and flyers.

Ihloff says it helps to have the businesses together. He can record a CD for a band, design a label, and put it all together in one place. "It's pretty handy to do that under one roof," said Ihloff.

Northwest Xerographics is located next to the west Dillons, 27th and Hall, and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Information about Heartland Band and CW Productions can be found online at www.heartlandband.com.

Contact Ihloff at:
Northwest Xerographics
27th and Hall Street
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Courtesy Photo
From left to right, Heartland Band members Charley, Manda, Bob and Pat perform.

✕ Alternative Energy

Fort Hays should go green

This last week, Fort Hays and the city of Hays hosted the 2007 version of the annual Kansas Shrine Bowl, and with it, a huge cheerleading camp, and my favorite part, the 2007 All-Kansas Masonic High School Marching Band.

This was the biggest advertisement for the university all year long (aside from Oktoberfest, but I never said that), and as such, being on the staff for the Band camp, I answered questions all week long about the university and its illustrious music program.

One question stuck me more than most, and it was the inevitable question of, "What does Fort Hays have to offer that the others don't?"

And to be honest, all I could come up with the fact that it only puts you into mild debt instead of ridiculously swamping debt (for those of us who can't get a full ride anyways). I kid. I informed them of the cheaper tuition, and then tried my best to give them the standard mumbo-jumbo about class sizes, job placement rates, and other facts, ad nauseam.

And it made me think about something else.

What if we could put Fort Hays State on the map by becoming one of the first schools in the state, if not the region, to be heavily reliant on alternative energy?

Excluding existing plans for wind farms in the area, there really isn't anything that Fort Hays has that seems to be running on anything but coal (by proxy), natural gas, or oil.

If there is, then I stand corrected on some level, but the fact remains, that more could be done.

If Fort Hays is considered a liberal arts college, then I think it's time we pushed to bring the liberal arts back to their potential. While the rest of the city can remain in their delusions about alternative energy,

we could add another adjective to the, "Affordable Success" slogan (e.g. "Clean, Affordable Success"), all the while saving the university some money on utility costs in the long run.

On a Google search of universities that utilize alternative energy, the only ones I could find within the first 20 pages were West Texas A&M, Stanford, Iowa State, New Mexico State University, MIT, and Auburn University. Assuming there's not more press out there about this kind of thing, doing something like this would put us on a national scale unlike any other.

If you asked me, I'd say those are pretty decent bragging rights.

It sounds easy, but for some reason, I get the gut feeling that pushing for changes such as these will be more difficult than trying to push a 747 through the front doors of Martin Allen Hall.

Perhaps I get that assumption from the reaction of the city's denizens to the proposed wind farm, but that's another rant for another day (and one I've gone on about already).

Regardless, it's a fight worth going after. While the initial cost may be something to deal with, the long term savings could be far greater than we could ever guess.

Come on Fort Hays, let's clean up, and brag about it to everyone else at the same time. Let's go green.



Brandon Worf
Photo Editor



Photo by Brandon Worf

Area high school students march in a parade for the 2007 All-Kansas Masonic High School Marching Band, held at Fort Hays State University.

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Lesson offered in grocery store etiquette

1. When the sign says, "12 items or less," it means "12 items or less."

Okay, so I work in a grocery store, and let me tell you this is one of the most aggravating things people do.

There's nothing quite like someone trying to put \$200 worth of groceries on a counter smaller than an end table.

Things fall off, get broken, and well, we're really not equipped to handle that many items. That is why it is called the EXPRESS lane. I know, I know, you're in a hurry and the line was shorter, but it will just take longer anyway. The only person in a worse mood than I when someone pulls this stunt is the guy with a candy bar waiting behind you in line. That look is priceless.

And when you see my mouth move but nothing coming out, no, I'm not mouthing profanities (although I'd like to), I'm simply mouthing "I'm sorry" to the person behind you.

2. When an item rings up at the wrong

price, I'm not purposely trying to rip you off.

Contrary to popular belief, checkers don't get a cut of the profits for people we overcharge. That money, unfortunately, goes straight into the vacation fund of our good friends in corporate (just kidding).

But honestly, I don't know how many times I've been accused of purposely overcharging someone. People, I just run the item's bar code in front of a laser beam that somehow tells the computer the price. If that price is incorrect, it didn't have anything to do with me. I'm not out there to rip you off. I still get paid near-minimum wage either way.

And that brings me to our next rule. 3. Computers are not evil and don't try to secretly rip you off.

I know it must be fun watching the screen and calculating all the totals in your head as they show up, but really, the computer



can do it much better than you.

4. Don't forget the sales tax.

This kind of goes along with rule #2. When an item is priced at \$2.99 and I charge you \$3.20, don't accuse me of ripping you off. We're not in Florida. Here in Kansas, we charge sales tax. And just as an FYI, even if you have a coupon for a free item, you still have to pay the tax, so at least bring a few cents.

And finally...

5. Grocery clerks are people, too, and the basic rules of courtesy apply.

We're bound to screw up sometimes, but that doesn't give you the right to be a total ass. And, as amusing as some people's behavior can be when they are mad (like when people throw items or change or ... worse yet, threaten to go to Wal-Mart), it gets old after a while. If you are nice about it, we'll be more likely to go out of our way to fix the problem. Basic respect here.

Minimum wage increase was overdue

Recently, the federal minimum wage was raised from \$5.15 per hour, to \$5.85, the first wage raise in almost ten years. The wage will again increase to \$7.25, on July 24, 2009. These changes are great, but why so little and why so late?

It seems common sense that prices and the cost of living are on the rise. Each year, we seem to pay more for everyday items.

Often, the changes are so gradual, we do not notice that we are all of a sudden paying significantly higher prices than we were just a few years ago.

In other cases, like insurance premiums and fuel, the changes are large enough that we notice from one month to the next, or from one year to the next.

I believe the numbers relating to minimum wage tell a far better story than I could narrate.

To begin with, since the last raise was in 1997, comparisons of recent prices to those of ten years ago are in order. According to roadsideamerica.com, gas per gallon in 1997 was \$1.23. In 2005, \$2.30.

We've now been paying around \$3.00 for several months.

The US Department of Agriculture priced reduced-fat milk at around \$2.92 in 1997. Last year, it had risen to \$3.10.

So far in 2007, we are paying an average \$3.22 a gallon. The same organization keeps statistics on the average costs of feeding a family.

In 1997, for a family of four, including two preteen children, the low-cost meal plan averaged at \$525 a month. Moderate buy-

ers spent an average \$655. That number has continuously grown each year to a low-cost average of \$700, and moderate cost of \$870, in May, 2007.

Both 33 percent increases.

After a trip to any fast-food restaurant, we all know we are paying much more for food than we were just a couple years ago.

Health insurance, on the other hand, is a little more elusive.

Often, employers pay part or all of our premiums. Without figures, we just know more is being taken out of our paycheck, and then we are still paying more at the doctor's office.

The US Department of Health and Human Services reported increases of 16.7 percent for single coverage, and 22.3 percent for family coverage between 1996 and 1999.

The numbers continue to grow at well-beyond inflation rates. The National Coalition of Health Care reports that family premiums have increased by \$1100 since

2000. It's no wonder that half of all bankruptcy filings, according to a recent Harvard study, are related to medical costs.

It is a bit perplexing, however, to find that 68 percent of those filing these bankruptcies were insured.

How many people does the minimum wage really affect?

The US Department of Labor reports

that 8 percent of teenagers earned minimum wage or less. 1 percent of workers over 25 work for minimum wage or less. Based on the 1 percent figure, and the 1,321,180 workers reported for Kansas, over 13,000 working Kansas are earning the minimum wage.

A paltry \$10,712 before taxes, based on a forty-hour week at the wage held for the last ten years!

Why is the American worker so underpaid? Sadly, Americans seem to vote against themselves on the issue of pay.

Since 1970, there is a clear trend of no change during Republican administrations including

Nixon, Reagan, and our current president, who had not increased the wage in his first six years in office.

Furthermore, our Republican senators, who are often first in line to vote breaks to corporations, the wealthy, and themselves, are also against honest pay.

Pat Roberts voted against the increase, and Sam Brownback was one of three senators to not vote on the issue. He has, however, voted against past increases.

In the movie *Dave*, Kevin Kline plays a presidential look-alike who actually gets a chance to make policy.

He responds by helping the poor. Though implausible, it does make one wonder where the people-serving politician went. How can politicians "serve the people" when they first serve the corporations?

Yes, they did just raise the minimum wage, but let us not forget that too many hard-working Americans still cannot afford proper health care, housing, food, or the entertainment that makes life bearable. \$5.85 is a step in the right direction, but a slap in the face to any honest, hard-working human.

THE EDGE

www.TheOnlineEdge.net

Mission:

The Edge strives to serve as a voice of integrity in the Ellis County community. The Edge endeavors to entertain and inform readers through coverage of locally relevant issues. The publication is founded on the ideal journalistic qualities of honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor can be emailed to edgenewspaper@gmail.com or mailed to P.O. Box 674, Hays, KS 67601. Letters must include name, address, and telephone number for verification purposes. The Edge reserves the right to edit letters and publication is not guaranteed. Each person is entitled to one copy of The Edge. Removal of multiple copies is considered theft.

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Mike Gourson

Features Editor

Staff Editorial

Local service groups deserve thanks, support

They often work for free or for very little pay, putting in long hours of service to those in our community.

While the headlines are often filled with reports of crime, punishment and what some might consider signs of the apocalypse, these dedicated individuals slave tirelessly for causes they care about, hoping to make some difference in the lives of those in our community.

With The Edge, we've had a

great opportunity over the years to bring a small degree of exposure and increased public awareness to some of these community service groups.

As a student newspaper and then a community newspaper, we've spoken to and given coverage to groups like the Kelly Center, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Smoky Hill Foundation for Chemical Dependency, DSNWK and the Hays Arts Council, among oth-

ers. And there are so many more out there, getting their hands dirty serving the community.

And you can help, too.

Find a community service organization. Go out and make a difference in the lives of children, or the elderly, or the disabled. Or go out and clean a highway, or whatever cause you want to work with.

In closing, we offer a big thanks to all those serving our community. Keep it up!

The Tree

Written by
C.E. “Bud” Brann

Every boy needs three things while growing up in the hot Kansas summers, friends, a dog, and one summer in a tree. We discovered our tree when I was eleven. Our tree was in a small farm field in town. It was only a block and a half from my house. One block, cross the river, turn left and we found it.

It was the only tree in the field, an elm tree, which had been struck by lightning. The resulting damage caused the limbs to dip down, many all the way to the ground. You could start on the ground and walk right up the tree as high as you wished, holding on to other branches as you went. It was God made for small boys to play Tarzan, swinging from branch to branch. Tag was the favorite game and we spent hours every day in the tree.

When we got thirsty, just back across the river was the little neighborhood store. We could always get an R.C. Cola for a nickel and, for an additional penny, a handful of peanuts to put in the R.C. My 25 cent weekly allowance would only cover a Saturday matinee movie where, to see Roy Rodgers, or Gene Autry, a ticket was 15 cents and a box of popcorn a dime. In order to afford the R.C. Cola and peanuts we collected bottles and old newspapers.

After playing hard, we would lay in the shade of the tree to rest on the long Kansas grass, feeling the hot Kansas winds and listening to it whisper through the leaves. We watched the white clouds form dragons, rabbits and deer; airplanes and submarines, everything an imaginative 11 year old could envision. Eventually one of us would be rested enough and he would quickly tag another and swing up into the tree and the game was on again.

Sometimes we rested up in the tree. Sometimes, not often, we fell out of the tree. No one broke a bone. With his friends watching no one dared cry. Usually it was just getting the wind knocked out of us. We never told our parents when we got hurt. If we had, they might have forbidden us to go there anymore.

Sometimes we took a break and walked down to the river. There was a backwash there which collected lots of bottles. We would see how many bottles we could break throwing rocks. Occasionally when a good supply of flat rocks could be found we would have a contest seeing how many times we could make a rock “skip”.

Across the street from the neighborhood store there was a small park running alongside the river. In the park there was another tree beside the river, and someone had tied a long cable to the tree so we could swing out over the river. It was a very small park and we played all sorts of games there; hide and seek, softball, all the games of childhood. It was in that park that I kissed a girl for the first time after Pinky and I challenged each other to do so with a very willing girl. I got

through the challenge relatively unscathed, but Pinky chose the wrong place and time. He kissed her beside the road just past a curve and a car full of people turned the curve and saw Pinky kiss the girl. He was so embarrassed he jumped on his bike and headed for home.

I learned a couple of lessons there as well. I learned about poverty. At that age I didn’t think much about rich and poor. I lived in a school district which included the rich kids from the hill and I vaguely knew they were rich and I wasn’t. I knew they seldom came down the hill to play with us, but I never really noticed any

difference between us. We were friends in school. I could beat every one of them at the year end school track meet and, back then, that was more important than being rich.

But I realized what being poor could mean when we decided we couldn’t even take time away from the tree to go home for lunch and wheedled our moms into making sandwiches to take to the tree. There was an old barn in the neighborhood and sometimes we took our sandwiches up into the hay loft to have lunch there, but usually we ate under the tree. Bruce and I and most of the others took bologna, or

spam sandwiches, sometimes with cheese; with ketchup, or mustard, or mayonnaise. Pinky always took twice as many sandwiches as the rest of us and we were amazed at how much he could eat, until we noticed that he never had meat or cheese. To him, a sandwich meant a ketchup or mustard sandwich. His family was too poor to make even bologna sandwiches. Maybe it was the lack of bologna sandwiches which caused Pinky to drop out of school after the eighth grade. I have no idea what became of him, or how his life might have differed if he could have brought bologna sandwiches back then.

It was just that one summer. The next summer we didn’t go back. Bruce was older, maybe that was the year he discovered girls. Anyway, we just had that one summer of the tree.

I learned how great it can be to have friends. I learned how good it can be to lie in the grass with friends beside me on a hot summer day, and silently watch the clouds roll across the infinite blue of the Kansas summer sky, feeling the hot wind caress our cheeks, watching the long brown Kansas grass bending and swaying, the only sound the rustle of the wind in the grass and leaves. Tag! Your it!



✕ Hays Arts Council

Group promotes the arts



Mike Courson
Features Editor

Since it's humble beginnings 40 years ago, with a starting budget of less than six thousand dollars and no physical facility for an art gallery, the Hays Arts Council has grown into an award-winning sponsor of several annual events that help to educate and entertain the residents of North Central Kansas.

The two full-time staffers at HAC are constantly planning and preparing for the next exhibition or performance. One of the biggest upcoming events is the Fall Gallery Walk, scheduled for the evening of Friday, August 24. Though the locations have yet to be finalized, Brenda Meder, director of the HAC, is planning on exhibits at about 20 locations throughout downtown Hays. The event is free to the community, and will feature mostly visual arts but also some performance arts.

"It's a great night for everyone," said Meder. "There will be hundreds of people. Everything from high school to college students, professionals, country club sets, art patrons and more. We see people pushing mini-strollers, out on dates, etcetera."

The Gallery Walks may be the highlight of each season, but the HAC also features continuously changing exhibits year round. According to the Meder, exhibits change about every four to five weeks. Each new exhibit is accompanied by an opening

reception, often coordinated with Fort Hays State University to maximize the audience for both organizations.

"Our opening receptions are held in the evenings so we can attract the largest segment of the community," said Meder.

Other annual activities through the HAC include the Five-State Photography Contest, in which photographers from Kansas and the surrounding states send in photographs to be professionally judged. Over 150 of the best photos will be displayed in a gallery. The Smoky Hills Art Exhibition is open to Kansas residents only and features a variety of art forms. Entries for this contest are also judged, with the best entries going into an exhibition.

The HAC also participates in art education through Ellis, Rooks, and Rush Counties. Meder said all students in Ellis County are included in everything the HAC does, but many students in the other counties participate as well. Some of the activities include inviting students to performances at Beach-Schmidt Performing

Arts Center, taking performance art to the schools and holding contests. Winners of the creative writing contest, open to all grades, are published, then awarded with a copy of the book and recognized at a ceremony at Fort Hays State. Fifth graders can participate in the Famous Figures contest held each spring, where they research, write about and perform as the chosen character.

Membership to the HAC is not necessary, but does help with costs.

"Membership is a great way to support the arts council. Without it, we are lost," Meder said, explaining that all events are free to the public. "Nothing we do is limited to just members because we are community based. There is no charge ever for a gallery walk night or to visit the gallery."

Members, however, do have the benefit of receiving a list of upcoming events.

The HAC Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more information about the HAC, visit www.haysartscenter.org.



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Friendship Family program seeking volunteers

Fort Hays State University’s Office of International Student Services is needing more people to be a part of the Friendship Family program.

Marnie Kohl, program coordinator, said that through the program, international students are paired up with a family, individual or community member to simply make friends and learn about the “culture of western Kansas”.

“A lot of them look for an American experience,” Kohl said. “This is a great way.”

The friendship families differ from host families in that the students do not live with them.

It’s a way for them to socialize by cooking dinner, going out to the movies, or doing other activities together.

Kohl said this is the third year since the program has been revived, and they’re in need families with more international stu-

dents coming in than ever before.

“We’re expecting 225 to 250 (international students) for this year,” Kohl said.

Last year, 25 friends were matched up with 51 students, resulting in each family having two or more students.

Some students who applied for a family

were not able to get one because there were not enough families, she said.

Most of the families and students who were in the program, Kohl said, enjoyed it and will continue it throughout the upcoming year.

It’s an opportunity for them to not only

practice their English, but also to gain cultural experience.

For more information or to apply to be a Friendship Family, call the Office of International Student Services at 628-4276 or visit the website at www.fhsu.edu/international/ffp/.



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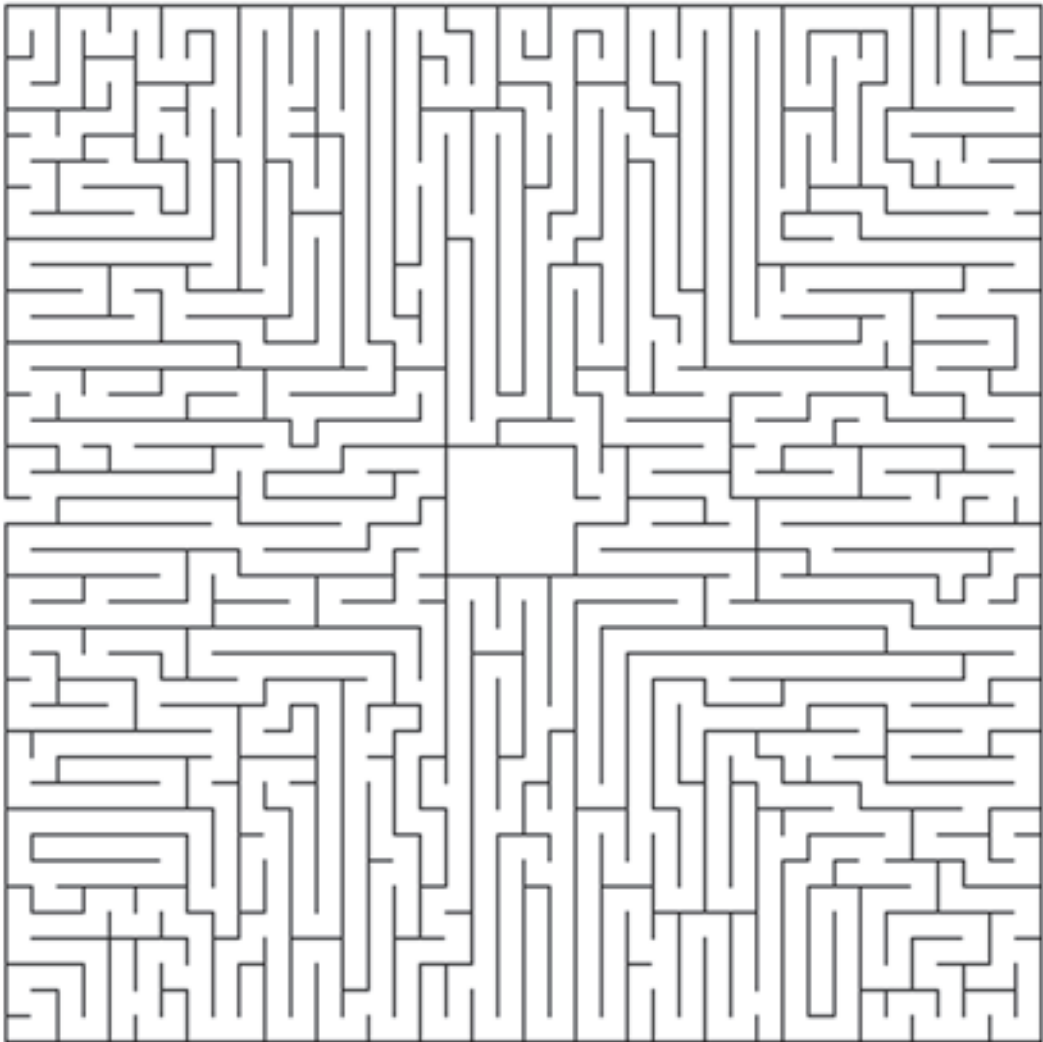
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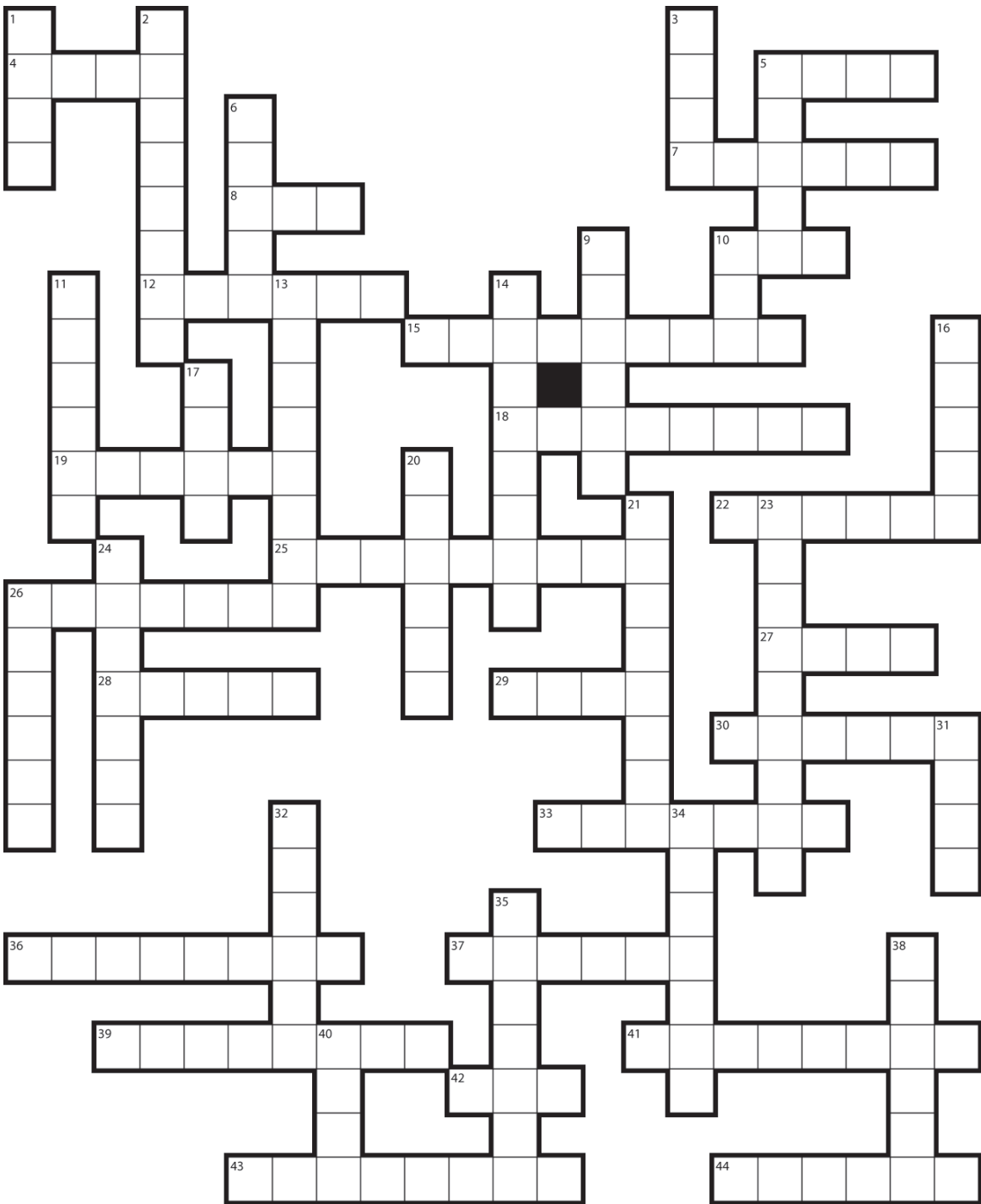
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K M B B T L V C E C E F K E H E O P N H
J A T D I I D W W E S F Z U B R E M M E
O D G U D C N M Y M X Q B U M Z B W M O
S U B D Q N O G N A Y V H C X P K Q T Z
O O D N F E V F I J H X Y J T I G X H Q
Y J L S M O U G R Z I O R O D A X H U I

ASHES
BURN
EXTINGUISHER
FIRETRUCK
HOSE
HYDRANT
IGNITE

LADDER
LIGHTER
MATCH
MATCHES
NOZZLE
PRESSURE
RESCUE

RUBBLE
SMOKE
SPARK
SPRAY
WATER

The Simpsons Trivia



- Across

4. Exchange student from Germany (4)

5. What Bart's tattoo says (4)

7. _____ the Clown (6)

8. Homer's catch phrase (3)

10. Replacement for Sideshow Bob; Sideshow _____ (3)

12. Name of Bart's pet elephant (6)

15. Insect star on channel Ocho (9)

18. Alias Simpsons used when hiding from Sideshow Bob (8)

19. Name of the fish with three eyes (6)

22. The town's slack-jawed yokel (6)

25. Street the Simpsons live on; _____ Terrace (9)

26. Principal at Springfield Elementary (7)

27. Name of Flander's children: Rod and _____ (4)

28. "Release the hounds." (5)

29. First name of Homer's brother (4)

30. Bart can speak this language (6)

33. Radioactive Man's sidekick's name; _____ Boy (7)

36. Product manufactured where Milhouse's dad works (8)

37. Who shot Mr. Burns? (6)

39. Drink found only at Kwik-E-Mart (8)

41. Capital City's mascot (8)

42. When Lisa's saxophone is stolen, what instrument does Homer buy her instead? (3)

43. Host of Channel 5 Action News (8)

44. Who is the Plow King (6)
- Down

1. Popular beer in Springfield (4)

2. Name of Lisa's pony (8)

3. "Hi Everybody"; "Hi Dr. _____" (4)

5. Ned Flander's wife (5)

6. Home country of the head of Kwik-E-Mart (5)

9. The bully; Lisa's ex-boyfriend (6)

10. Name of Homer's bar tender (3)

11. Mayor of Springfield (6)

13. Favorite television show of Patty and Selma (8)

14. Assistant to Mr. Burns (8)

16. Lunchlady at Springfield Elementary (5)

17. First name of Mrs. Krabappel (4)

20. Lisa's mentor in Jazz music; Bleedin' Gums _____ (6)

21. Name of (several) Simpson's cats (8)

23. Ned Flander's store (9)

24. Simpson's family doctor; known for laughing (7)

26. Twins in Bart's class; Terri and _____ (6)

31. Attorney-owner of "I can't believe its a law firm"; Lionel _____ (4)

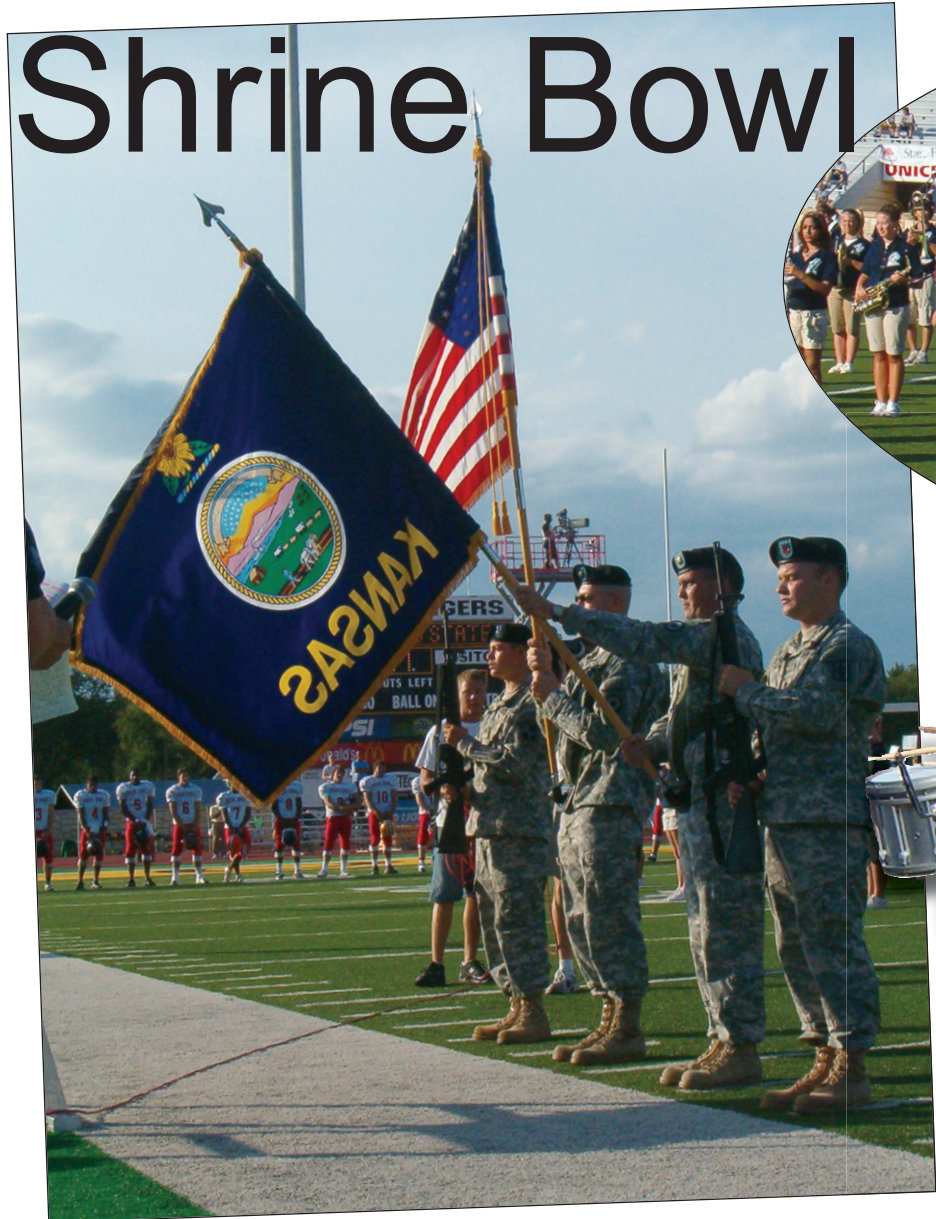
32. "Eat my _____" (6)

34. Reverend _____ (7)

35. Apu's wife (7)

38. Groundskeeper _____ (6)

40. Bart's conjoined twin (4)



Photos by Brandon Worf
Directly above, military personnel hold the United States and Kansas flags before the start of the Shrine Bowl last week. Above right, members of the 2007 All-Kansas Masonic High School Marching Band perform for the Shrine Bowl after a week-long camp. The 216 members were nominated from their bands from across Kansas.





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